Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) The job executing system according to claim [[1]] 15, in which a graphical user interface environment is provided, wherein

there is provided screen displaying means for displaying, on a screen, interactive figure elements each indicative of its associated candidate job; and

according to user's operations to some of the interactive figure elements, their associated candidate jobs are synthesized so as to obtain a synthetic job.

3. (Original) The job executing system according to claim 2, wherein

when the number of the input-related candidate jobs is two or more, the input-related candidate jobs are associated with their respective input means; and

when the number of the output-related candidate jobs is two or more, the output-related candidate jobs are associated with their respective output means.

4. (Original) The job executing system according to claim 2, wherein

there is provided standard setting information management means for accumulating and managing standard output setting information indicative of a standard attribute of the output-related candidate job; and

according to a user's operation, the synthetic job thus obtained is executed while using the standard output setting information.

5. (Original) The job executing system according to claim 3, in which, by means of user's operations to interactive figure elements, selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an input-related candidate job and selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an output-related candidate job are sequentially conducted to generate a synthetic job, wherein

there is provided synthesis possibility judging means for judging, on the basis of a relationship between a characteristic of the input means thus associated and a characteristic of the output means thus associated, whether or not a synthesis can be conducted between an

input-related or output-related job which has been already selected, and an output-related or input-related job which is intended to be selected by a user's operation; and

when the synthesis possibility judging means judges that the synthesis cannot be conducted, a change is made to a display of the interactive figure element indicative of the output-related or input-related candidate job which is intended to be selected.

6.   (Original) The job executing system according to claim 3, in which, by means of user's operations to interactive figure elements, selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an input-related candidate job and selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an output-related candidate job are sequentially conducted to generate a synthetic job, wherein

there is provided a limitation content examining means for examining, on the basis of a relationship between a characteristic of the input means thus associated and a characteristic of the output means thus associated, a content of a limitation imposed when a synthesis is conducted between an input-related or output-related candidate job which has been already selected, and an output-related or input-related candidate job which is intended to be selected by a user's operation; and

according to an examination result made by the limitation content examining means, a change is made to a display of the interactive figure element indicative of the output-related or input-related candidate job which is intended to be selected.

7.   (Original) The job executing system according to claim 3, in which, by means of user's operations to interactive figure elements, selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an input-related candidate job and selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an output-related candidate job are sequentially conducted to generate a synthetic job, wherein

based on an operating state of the output means, a change is made a display of the interactive figure element indicative of the output-related or input-related candidate job, which is intended to be selected by a user's operation.

8.   (Canceled).

9.   (Currently Amended) The job executing method according to claim [[8]] 17, in which a graphical user interface environment is provided, wherein

there is provided a step of displaying, on a screen, interactive figure elements each indicative of its associated candidate job; and

according to user's operations to some of the interactive figure elements, their associated candidate jobs are synthesized so as to obtain a synthetic job.

10.   (Original) The job executing method according to claim 9, wherein

when the number of the input-related candidate jobs is two or more, the input-related candidate jobs are associated with their respective input means; and

when the number of the output-related candidate jobs is two or more, the output-related candidate jobs are associated with their respective output means.

11.   (Original) The job executing method according to claim 9, wherein

there is provided a step of accumulating and managing standard output setting information indicative of a standard attribute of the output-related candidate job; and

according to a user's operation, the synthetic job thus obtained is executed while using the standard output setting information.

12.   (Original) The job executing method according to claim 10, in which, by means of user's operations to interactive figure elements, selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an input-related candidate job and selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an output-related candidate job are sequentially conducted to generate a synthetic job, wherein

a judgment is made, on the basis of a relationship between a characteristic of the input means thus associated and a characteristic of the output means thus associated, as to whether or not a synthesis can be conducted between an input-related or output-related job which has been already selected, and an output-related or input-related job which is intended to be selected by a user's operation, and

when a judgment that the synthesis cannot be conducted is made, a change is made to a display of the interactive figure element indicative of the output-related or input-related candidate job which is intended to be selected.

13.   (Original)   The job executing method according to claim 10, in which, by means of user's operations to interactive figure elements, selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an input-related candidate job and selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an output-related candidate job are sequentially conducted to generate a synthetic job, wherein

there is provided a step of examining, on the basis of a relationship between a characteristic of the input means thus associated and a characteristic of the output means thus associated, a content of a limitation imposed when a synthesis is conducted between an input-related or output-related candidate job which has been already selected, and an output-related or input-related candidate job which is intended to be selected by a user's operation; and

according to an examination result made at the step, a change is made to a display of the interactive figure element indicative of the output-related or input-related candidate job which is intended to be selected.

14.   (Original)   The job executing method according to claim 10, in which, by means of user's operations to interactive figure elements, selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an input-related candidate job and selection of an interactive figure element indicative of an output-related candidate job are sequentially conducted to generate a synthetic job, wherein,

based on an operating state of the output means, a change is made to a display of the interactive figure element indicative of the output-related or input-related candidate job which is intended to be selected by a user's operation.

15.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A job executing system ~~according to claim 1,~~ in which, with respect to a same processing object, designated jobs are executed in a sequence, comprising:

job management means for managing an input-related candidate job which executes chiefly input processing, and an output-related candidate job which executes chiefly output processing;

job synthesizing means for generating, according to a user's operation, a synthetic job constituted by an input-related candidate job which has been already executed by a first device, and an output-related candidate job which will be executed hereafter; and

job schedule succeeding means for succeeding, only after the first device has executed the input-related candidate job, a schedule of the synthetic job generated from the first device to a second device when the second device which has yet to execute the output-related candidate job and the first device which has executed the input-related candidate job are different in the synthetic job,

wherein the job schedule succeeding means includes a job table which stores the synthetic job, and wherein the synthetic job is maintained in the job table until the synthetic job is completed, and only then is the synthetic job deleted from the job table.

16.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A job executing system ~~according to claim 1,~~ in which, with respect to a same processing object, designated jobs are executed in a sequence, comprising:

job management means for managing an input-related candidate job which executes chiefly input processing, and an output-related candidate job which executes chiefly output processing;

job synthesizing means for generating, according to a user's operation, a synthetic job constituted by an input-related candidate job which has been already executed by a first device, and an output-related candidate job which will be executed hereafter; and

job schedule succeeding means for succeeding, only after the first device has executed the input-related candidate job, a schedule of the synthetic job generated from the first device to a second device when the second device which has yet to execute the output-related candidate job and the first device which has executed the input-related candidate job are different in the synthetic job,

wherein, in a case where the synthetic job has not completed due to a problem in execution of the output-related candidate job by the second device, the synthetic job is reexecuted by having the first device re-perform the input-related candidate job and then having the second device re-attempt to perform the output-related candidate job.

17.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A job executing method ~~according to claim 8,~~ ~~further~~ in which, with respect to a same processing object, designated jobs are executed in a sequence, comprising:

managing an input-related candidate job which executes chiefly input processing, and an output-related candidate job which executes chiefly output processing;

executing an input-related candidate job by a first device;

generating, according to a user's operation, a synthetic job constituted by the input-related candidate job which has been already executed by the first device, and an output-related candidate job which will be executed after the generating step;

succeeding, only after the first device has executed the input-related candidate job, a schedule of the synthetic job generated from the first device to a second device when the second device which has yet to execute the output-related candidate job and the first device which has executed the input-related candidate job are different in the synthetic job;

storing the synthetic job in a job table which stores the synthetic job; and

maintaining the synthetic job in the job table until the synthetic job is completed; and

after the synthetic job is completed, deleting the synthetic job from the job table.

18.   (Currently Amended) The A job executing method according to claim 8, in which, with respect to a same processing object, designated jobs are executed in a sequence, comprising:

managing an input-related candidate job which executes chiefly input processing, and an output-related candidate job which executes chiefly output processing;

executing an input-related candidate job by a first device;

generating, according to a user's operation, a synthetic job constituted by the input-related candidate job which has been already executed by the first device, and an output-related candidate job which will be executed after the generating step; and

succeeding, only after the first device has executed the input-related candidate job, a schedule of the synthetic job generated from the first device to a second device when the second device which has yet to execute the output-related candidate job and the first device which has executed the input-related candidate job are different in the synthetic job,

wherein, in a case where the synthetic job has not completed due to a problem in execution of the output-related candidate job by the second device, the method comprising:

reexecuting the synthetic job by having the first device re-perform the input-related candidate job and then having the second device re-attempt to perform the output-related candidate job.